REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

By the foregoing amendments, claims 38, 46 and 54 have been amended and claims 59-61 have been added. Claims 35-37, 39, 40, 43-45, 47, 48, 51-53, 55 and 56 have been withdrawn as a result of the February 6, 2008, election of species requirement.

Art Rejections:

Claims 38, 41, 42, 46, 49, 50, 54, 57 and 58 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,827,279 to *Teraura*, in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0109194 to *Yano*.

Independent claim 38 is directed to an image forming device. A reading unit reads image data from an electronic tag of an electronically tagged printed matter. Image data is printed on electronically tagged printing paper equipped with the electronic tag for storing electronic data in a certain part of the printing paper. The electronic tag stores image data printed on the electronically tagged printing paper. A second reading unit reads out modifiable attribute information corresponding to attribute information which constitutes an appearance of original image data of the image data on the electronically tagged printed matter from the electronic tag. A display unit displays the modifiable attribute information read out by the second reading unit. A modifying unit modifies the modifiable attribute information read out

by the second reading unit. A printing unit prints image data read by the reading unit based on the attribute information modified by the modifying unit.

The Office Action recognizes that *Teraura* fails to teach a reading unit for reading out modifiable attribute information among attribute information of the electronically tagged printed matter from the electronic tag, a display unit for displaying the modifiable attribute information, a modifying unit for modifying the modifiable attribute information and a printing unit for printing image data read by the reading unit. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's assertion that *Yano* overcomes the deficiencies of *Teraura* noted above.

Claim 38 is amended to clarify that the second reading unit reads out modifiable attribute information that corresponds to attribute information which constitutes an appearance of original image data of the image data on the electronically tagged printed matter from an electronic tag. Such a feature is not disclosed in the *Yano* reference. Instead, *Yano* discloses reading out "additional information" rather than the attribute information which itself comprises the image data. As disclosed in *Yano* at paragraphs [0050], [0135] and [0141], the additional information is only designed to provide additional information to the original image but does not compose the original image. For example, as disclosed in paragraphs [0135] and [0141] the original and additional information are separately output and can be separately printed.

Furthermore, in *Yano* there is no disclosure that the original or the additional information is modifiable. In *Yano* there can only be the addition of other images to original images, selection of the patterns displaying other images etc. There is no capability to modify the original image itself. The Office Action cites step 110 in Fig.

9 as a modifying unit. However, this step merely discloses printing data stored in the IC chip. The Office Action also identifies element 510 as the modifying unit. However, paragraph [0102] of *Yano* merely discloses that UI section 510 controls the UI apparatus 26 to display selection information. Selection information prompts the user to select the additional information to be printed out. There is no disclosure of a modifying unit for modifying the modifiable attribute information read out by the second reading unit nor any disclosure of reading out modifiable attribute information corresponding to attribute information which constitutes an appearance of original image data as in Applicants' independent claim 38.

Independent claims 46 and 54 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 38.

The dependent claims are also patentable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for the individual features they recite. For example, new claim 59 recites the modifiable attribute information is a format of the image data on the electronically tagged printed matter from the electronic tag. New dependent claim 60 recites the modifiable attribute information corresponds to at least one of the image data's color, resolution, font size, font color, and font type. New dependent claim 61 recites the electronic tag stores electronic data having a header part storing the modifiable attribute information and an image data part storing the original image data and attribute data defined by the modifiable attribute information. None of these features are disclosed by *Teraura* or *Yano* either alone or in combination.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.
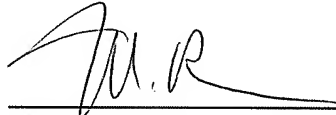
Respectfully submitted,

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